

# Florida District 5

## Inter-League Agreement for the 2010 Season

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

According to Little League Policies, the DISTRICT is responsible for Inter-League Play. This Inter-League Agreement is intended to be in compliance with all rules, regulations, and policies of Little League Baseball, Inc. If any discrepancies are found, the Rules and Regulations of Little League Baseball shall govern.

Each league will assign an “Inter-League Board Committee Member” to be the single point of contact for Inter-League play. Each Division (Senior, Junior, Major, Minor Player Pitch and Minor Coach Pitch) must be represented by a separate “Board Committee Member” and this “Board Committee Member” must not manage or coach in the division they represent. (No one may represent more than one (1) division). The “Inter-League Board Committee Member” must have the authority to act on behalf of his/her league in all matters regarding Inter-League Play.

At a MANDATORY “Inter-League Play Meeting” of the “Inter-League Board Committee Members”, a “Division Inter-League Representative” will be elected to oversee and communicate with the Inter-League Board Committee Members and the District Inter-League Representative during the season.

PRIOR to a team being scheduled to participate in any Inter-League games, the President of the league MUST submit “Age Breakdown Sheet A&B”, a “District 5 INTER-LEAGUE PLAY Request Form” per division filled out in its entirety and an “Application For Inter-League Play” and if applicable, an “Application for Combined Teams Regular Season Play” form to the District Administrator for approval. Approval must be granted prior to the team participating in any inter-league games.

Each League President shall provide:

- an “Official Regulations and Playing Rules” book to each Team Manager and Umpire’s
- a copy of this Inter-League Agreement to each Team Manager and Umpire’s
- a copy of the applicable Inter-League Schedule to each Team Manager and Umpire’s

### Schedules

Schedules will be developed/finalized/approved at a MANDATORY “Inter-League Play Scheduling Meeting”. Each league wishing to participate in Inter-League Play must attend the scheduling meeting (there may be separate meetings for Baseball and Softball). It is highly recommended that the league’s Scheduling/Field Coordinator attend this meeting to help ensure there are no scheduling conflicts with “in-house” games/schedules. The Schedules and all Schedule Revisions (excluding the Re-Scheduled Games) must be approved by the District Inter-League Representative.

- Games not played due to weather, field conditions, schedule conflicts, or lack of players for both teams, may be Re-Scheduled to a place/time agreeable to BOTH Managers and the applicable Field Coordinator. (The Home Team must contact the “Division Inter-League Representative, the Visiting Team manager and the Umpires prior to 4 PM on the day of the scheduled game).
- Games canceled by agreement of both Managers at least 24 hours prior to game time may be Re-Scheduled to a time/place agreeable to BOTH Managers and the applicable Field Coordinator.
- If BOTH Managers and Field Coordinator can not agree on a place/time for the Re-Scheduled Game it will be referred to the District Inter-League Representative for resolution. His/Her decisions are final.
- If a LEAGUE is unable to field a team for a scheduled game, and the Division Inter-League Representative and the Opposing Team Manager is notified 24 hours before the scheduled start time, the game may be rescheduled subject to approval by the District Inter-League Representative.
- In all situations indicated above, UMPIRES must be notified immediately of game cancellations.

NOTE: If a VISITING LEAGUE is unable to field a team for a scheduled game and the Opposing Team Manager IS NOT notified 4 hours before the scheduled start time, they will be responsible for reimbursing those LEAGUES the fee for Paid Umpires if the HOME LEAGUE utilizes such umpires. This applies to All Divisions.

## Team Rosters and Pool Players

The Manager (or Coach if the Manager is not in attendance) must have a copy of the "League Organizer" Team Roster and Medical Release Forms with him/her at every Inter-League game. The use of players not listed on the Team Roster is prohibited (**Exception:** Pool Players are allowed in ALL Divisions – subject to the restrictions described below).

**Pool Players:** Each League's Player Agent is responsible for maintaining his/her League's Pool Player List.

**No more than three (3) Pool Players may be assigned to/used by a team in any game.**

**Pool Players MAY NOT PITCH OR CATCH.**

Pool Players are assigned on a game by game basis (**Exception:** If the team is playing a double-header the same Pool Player(s) may be assigned for both games).

Every Pool Player who attends his/her assigned game must play a minimum of 9 consecutive defensive outs and bat at least once Note: if the player becomes sick or injured or is ejected or if the game is ended early due to the time limit, 10 run rule, weather, or any other reason, it is acceptable for the Pool Player to have less than 9 defensive outs/1 at bat).

If the rostered player for whom the Pool Player was requested attends the game he/she may only participate if the team has 10 or less total players at the game. If the team has 11 or more players at the game, the player(s) for whom the pool player(s) was/were requested are not allowed to participate.

Example: Team has 7 players available and requests 2/3 Pool Players (total of 9/10 players)  
At the game, one of the players for which a Pool Player was requested shows up.  
The Player may participate (7 players plus 2/3 pool players = 9/10 Players total).

Example: Team has 8 players available and requests 3 Pool Players (total of 11 players)  
At the game, one of the players for which a Pool Player was requested shows up.  
The Player may NOT participate (8 players plus 3 pool players = 11 Players total)

At the pre-game meeting at home plate, each Manager must inform the Home Plate Umpire and the opposing team Manager of any Pool Players participating in the game.

Pool Players must play in their regular season team's uniform (helps identify the Pool Players)

## Field Preparation

Prior to the game, fields will be prepared (bases in place, foul lines marked, batter and coacher boxes marked, infield groomed, grass cut, and dugouts cleaned) by the league on whose fields the games are being played. If two games are scheduled, both teams share field duties between games. After each game, both teams are required to clean their dugout and the spectator area of their fans, if the fans fail to do so. Failure to fulfill these duties may result in disciplinary action against the manager of the team(s).

## Umpires

The Home Team/League shall provide the Home Plate Umpire and one Base/Field Umpire.

The Visiting Team/League has the option to provide as many as two Base/Field Umpires.

An Umpire accompanying the Visiting Team must be allowed to umpire if he/she desires.

If the Home Team/League does NOT provide any Umpires for a game, the Visiting Team Manager or League Representative should notify the Inter-League Division Representative of this fact (after the game via E-Mail).

# **INTER-LEAGUE - GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## **(Little League Regular Season Rules Apply)**

In the event Umpires and/or Coaching Staffs fail to enforce the following rules, any League Official or District Staff Member present is obligated to discuss the rule violation with an Umpire. Should the rule violation continue, the violator is to be reported to the appropriate District Inter-league Representative responsible for the division, who in turn, will contact the President(s) of the offending League(s) for appropriate disciplinary action.

### **1. GAME TIMES AND DURATION**

Games will begin at the time set in the Inter-League Schedule. If two or more games are scheduled on the same field, succeeding games will start 15 minutes after the previous game has ended, or at the scheduled time, whichever is later (if both Managers and the Umpires agree, the game may start earlier).

**Time Limits** - No new inning shall start after:

- 1 hour and 30 minutes for Minor Coach Pitch Softball
- 1 hour and 45 minutes for Minor Coach Pitch Baseball
- 1 hour and 45 minutes for Minor Player Pitch Baseball and Softball
- 2 hours for Major Baseball and Softball
- 2 hours and 30 minutes for Junior and Senior Baseball and Softball

Time Limits are calculated from the “scheduled” start time. See (“Official Regulations and Playing Rules”).

#### **Exceptions:**

1. If a doubleheader is being played in the Junior or Senior Division, the Time Limits are reduced to 2 hours for each game.
2. If the time limit is reached in the first game of a doubleheader, the game shall continue until a winner is determined or curfew is reached (whichever comes first).
3. If the game is tied when the above time limit is reached and another game is not scheduled on the same field following the game being played, the game should continue until a winner is determined or curfew is reached (whichever comes first).
4. If another game is not scheduled on the same field following the game being played BOTH Managers may agree to waive the time limit. The agreement must be made PRIOR to the Start of the Game and the Home Plate Umpire must be notified that the game is being played without a time limit. (Applies only to Majors and above).

For games ended by Time Limits, if the game is a regulation game under Rule 4.10 or 4.11 the game is over. If the game is to be called due to the above time limit and it is not a regulation game under Rule 4.10 or 4.11 (Majors and above) it must be continued until it is a regulation game or curfew is reached (whichever comes first).

### **2. FORFEITS**

In the event both teams are unable to field nine players to start the game, no Forfeit applies and the game will be Re-Scheduled.

If only one team is unable to field nine players after 10 minutes of the scheduled starting time for a regular or makeup game, the game will initially be declared a Forfeit in accordance with Rule 4.16 and 4.17 and counted as a loss in the standings. The potential Forfeit shall be reported to the District Inter-League Representative via E-Mail. A decision will subsequently be made as to whether the Forfeit shall stand or the game rescheduled.

If the game is rescheduled, the site of the rescheduled game may be different than the original game. For example, if a Visiting Team travels to another park and the Home Team does not show up, the rescheduled game will, if at all possible, be scheduled at the original game’s Visiting Team’s park.

If only one team is unable to field nine players and the other team has excess players, the teams may decide to play a “practice game” in which case the team with excess players will loan the opposing team enough players to be able to field a team. This was initially a scheduled Inter-League game so one of the teams has traveled to the location to play. Rather than going home without playing the teams might as well have a practice game while they are there. Umpires are not required for “practice games”.

### **3. HOME AND VISITING TEAMS**

The designated “Home Team” on the schedule:

- Occupies the first base dugout.
- Provides the home plate Umpire and one base (field) Umpire.
- Provides the “Official Scorekeeper” who will maintain the Official Scorebook as well as the Pitch Count Log (Baseball) and/or Pitching Log (Softball). The official scorekeeper must be located outside the dugout and within close proximity of the plate umpire (if the Home Team does not provide the scorekeeper, the Visiting Team provide the scorekeeper). Either may provide a Score Board Operator.
- Provides a minimum of four (4) regulation game balls of which two (2) must be new (regardless of the location of the game).
- Cleans the first base dugout, surrounding area, and stands after completion of the game.

The designated “Visiting Team” on the schedule:

- Occupies the third base dugout.
- May provide an individual to assist the scorekeeper by keeping the Official Pitch Count Log (this individual must also sit next to the Official Scorekeeper).
- Cleans the third base dugout, surrounding area, and stands after completion of the game.

Each League should have a designated league representative present at each game. The representative may be a board official or a parent appointed by the local league to represent the league. The function of the representative is to observe and report all events pertaining to the game. The representative provides his/her report to the local league president, who will report events to the District Staff if necessary.

### **4. BASE COACHES**

If a team’s Manager and two Coaches are present, then two adult base coaches are allowed. One adult (Manager or Coach) must remain in the dugout at all times. Only Managers and Coaches on the team Roster are allowed on the field or in the dugout.

### **5. ROSTERS, SCOREBOOKS and PITCHING RECORDS**

Each Team must have a copy of the team’s Roster, the team’s Scorebook, and the team’s PITCH COUNT LOG (Baseball), PITCHING LOG (Softball) at each game. These records must be made available for review by the opposing team and the Plate Umpire in order to alleviate any questions/problems and to help avoid and/or resolve any potential protest situations (e.g.: use of ineligible player/pitcher).

A continuous District 5 Pitch Count Log (Baseball), Pitching Log (Softball) MUST BE maintained by each team to keep an accurate pitching record for ALL of their games (inter-league and intra-league) throughout the season. The log shall provide a record in chronological order of all pitches pitched (baseball) or innings pitched (softball) of all games. Each team’s Pitchers of record and the official number of pitches pitched (baseball) or innings pitched (softball) in each game are to be recorded by the game’s scorekeeper. The Pitch Count Log (Baseball) or Pitching Log (Softball) must be signed (initialed) by the opposing team’s Manager after each game.

**Note:** A missing or incomplete Roster, Scorebook, Pitch Count Log (Baseball) or Pitching Log (Softball) requires that the game still be played. The Opposing Manager may “Protest” the game in which case the Opposing Manager must, within 24 hours, inform the District Inter-league Representative of the situation for further investigation and resolution.

## **6. TEN-RUN and CONTINUOUS BATTING RULES**

The Ten-Run Rule is in effect for ALL Inter-League Games.

In the Major Division and above, leagues must agree to use either a standard batting order or continuous batting order prior to the start of the Inter-League season.

Baseball & Softball: Major and Junior/Senior Divisions will use the standard batting order.

## **7. SPECIAL MINOR LEAGUE RULES – COACH PITCH**

- Continuous Batting is in effect for ALL Teams, defensive substitutions can be made freely.
- Games may end in a tie.
- At the time of the pitch, ALL outfielders must be positioned on the outfield grass.
- The side is retired when three (3) offensive players are legally put out, or when the offensive team scores three (3) runs. There will NOT be an “unlimited” last inning.
- A player is out on strike 3 or when failing to hit a fair ball within 6 pitches, whichever comes first. No player will be given more than 6 pitches.
- Neither bunting nor stealing is permitted.
- Only one (1) base is permitted on an overthrow.
- A team may play with less than 9 players but it must have at least 6 defensive players (pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second basemen, third baseman and a shortstop).
- All games should use a pitching machine. If one is not available, Coach Pitching will be used (the Coach will pitch to his/her team). In machine pitch, the defensive pitcher must stand to the side of the pitching plate with one foot within four (4) feet of the pitching plate.
- In machine pitch games, a batted ball hitting the pitching machine is fair unless it bounds untouched into foul territory before passing first or third base.
- Play is over (ball is dead), when the ball is returned to, and in the possession of, the pitcher, on/or near the pitching plate (within the pitcher’s circle for softball).
- Baseball: The standard baseball will be used for this division.

## **8. SPECIAL MINOR LEAGUE RULES – PLAYER PITCH**

- Continuous Batting is in effect for ALL Teams.
- Games may end in a tie.
- Substitutions are to be made in accordance with the “Official Regulations and Playing Rules”.
- The side is retired when three (3) offensive players are legally put out, or when the offensive team scores four (4) runs (Baseball and Softball). There will NOT be an “unlimited” last inning.
- Bunting or stealing is not permitted until April 4th.
- Only one (1) base is permitted on an overthrow until April 4th.
- “Softball Only”, player pitches until four (4) balls, and then coach pitches (no walks). This will only be in effect until April 4th. After April 4<sup>th</sup>, all games will be completely player pitch.
- “Softball Only”, pitchers are limited to three (3) innings per game as well as the weekly limits defined by the “Official Regulations and Playing Rules”.

## **9. WARM-UP ACTIVITY**

No one is allowed on the playing field prior to their scheduled pre-game warm-up time. Home Team: May take the field 30 minutes prior to game time and have possession for 10 minutes. Visiting Team; May take the field 20 minutes prior to game time and have the field for 10 minutes. Both teams must be in their dugouts 10 minutes prior to game time for the pre-game preliminaries. All equipment should be placed outside the dugout 10 minutes prior to game time for inspection. In the event of a late start, pre-game warm-ups may be suspended.

Any Player performing the duties of a Catcher during any warm-up activity involving a Pitcher and/or a batted ball (including infield/outfield practice) must wear a catcher's helmet with a mask and "dangling" throat guard. It is highly recommended that the player also wear a chest protector, leg guards, and that all male catchers also wear a "cup" during such warm-up activities.

**Managers, Coaches, or other Adults are not allowed** to warm-up Pitchers or other players **at any time**.

#### **10. PROTESTS**

When a Protest involves teams from two different Leagues, the District Inter-League Representative must be notified via E-Mail. He/she is responsible for ensuring that the Protest is properly investigated and ruled upon in a timely manner.

Protests are NOT allowed in Minor Leagues, the issue must be resolved by the Manager(s) and Umpire(s) at the field prior to the next pitch/play.

#### **11. ALTERCATIONS**

Any Manager, Coach, or Player initiating or engaging in a verbal or physical altercation at the park before, during, or after a game, is AUTOMATICALLY EJECTED from that game and is suspended for the team's next game. The Head Umpire and/or the Inter-League Board Committee Member for the respective league will report the Ejection via E-Mail, to the appropriate Division Inter-League Representative and District Inter-League Representative for review and potential additional disciplinary action.

For serious and/or multiple offenses, the individual will be required to appear before a Committee of District Staff and League Officials to discuss the event(s) prior to participation in any further game. If the individual is a Player, the team's Manager must accompany the Player to the hearing (the player's parents/guardians may also attend). Depending on the severity of the incident, the Committee may impose additional disciplinary action up to and including suspension from Inter-League Play.

#### **12. LOCAL RULES/GROUND RULES**

Individual League "Local League Rules/By-Laws" do not apply in Inter-League Play.

**Exception:** A curfew does apply if it stipulated by the local Parks and Recreation Department. Local League Field Ground Rules would be in effect and discussed at the plate conference with the Umpires.

#### **13. CONCESSION STAND and COOLERS (Outside Food and Drink)**

Many leagues need the profits from their Concession Stands as a major source of income. As such, bringing outside food or drinks into a park is NOT permitted.

**Exception:** Teams are allowed to have a Cooler (drinks, wet towels, ice packs, etc...) in the dugout for the players and coaches.

#### **14. UNIFORMS**

All uniforms must have a number on the back of the uniform.

**OUR LEAGUE AGREES TO ABIDE BY THE INTER-LEAGUE RULES OUTLINED ABOVE**

**AZALEA LL**                      **President or Designee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BAY POINT LL**                      **President or Designee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CROSS BAYOU LL**                      **President or Designee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GULF BEACHES LL**                      **President or Designee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GULFPORT LL**                      **President or Designee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NORTHEAST LL**                      **President or Designee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PINELLAS PARK  
NAT'L LL**                      **President or Designee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEMINOLE LL**                      **President or Designee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SOUTHWEST LL**                      **President or Designee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Previous editions of this document are obsolete.

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